

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Examiner acknowledges receipt of the Amendment filed on October 26, 2009. Claims 1-6 are currently pending.

Priority

The Examiner acknowledges receipt of the verified Japanese-to-English translation of the priority application JP2004-061933 filed on March 5, 2004 filed with the Amendment dated October 26, 2009.

Double Patenting

2. The rejection of claims 1-6 on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 7,063,201 to Nakamura et al. as set forth in the Office Action dated April 27, 2009 is withdrawn in view of the arguments set forth in Applicant's remarks on pages 4 and 5 in the Amendment filed on October 26, 2009.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see pages 5-7, filed October 26, 2009, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,063,201 and the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0130007 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of April 27, 2009 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-6 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not anticipate or render obvious a rotation output device having a rotation driving member for outputting a rotation driving force and a rotation output member for outputting a rotation force in response to the driving of the rotation driving member, wherein the rotation force is conveyed with a predetermined play angle such that the rotation force is not conveyed in a relative rotation direction within the predetermined play angle; a movable lock member with teeth and projecting pins for locking a rotation conveyed from the rotation output member when the movable lock member enters into a pressed state by being pressed toward the fixing member by the rotation output member, and retaining means provided between the movable lock member and the fixing member and including guide holes engageable with the projecting pins, wherein the retaining means are operable to retain the position of the movable lock member in the rotation direction when receiving the rotation from the rotation output member; and, including the remaining structure of claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUSTIN HOLMES whose telephone number is (571)272-3448. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am to 4:30pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David D. Le can be reached on 571-272-7092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JUSTIN HOLMES/
Examiner, Art Unit 3655

/Rodney H. Bonck/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3655